

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

September 27, 2016

MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Felicia Turner, Francisco Alves, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye and Gene Stanton.

Liaison member Jet Reid was present.

III. Other persons present were Roger Sobkowiak, Amanda Fleet and Rickie Williams.

IV. All present were invited to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance if they wished.

V. The August 2016 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed. David Kaye moved to approve the minutes, and Marguerite Vacca-Kaye seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Members of the public were invited to make comments. Rickie Williams spoke on how his experiences as police officer have affected his views on human relations.

VII. It was reported that the HRC has \$4,464.00 in funds on hand.

VIII. Mari Lee reported that she has called for each Standing Committee to meet before the next HRC meeting, and present a report on its activities at that time.

Mari Lee showed several models of the revised HRC logo and explained the options that were available. Gene Stanton moved that the HRC should purchase two different versions of the revised logo, for a total price of \$250.00. Tonya Amedon seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mari Lee reported that the Executive Committee has been discussing ways to better publicize HRC events and activities, such as the recent public forum. Press releases, the County website, local newspapers and radio stations, HRC's social media accounts, and a stronger email distribution list are all being discussed and considered.

Mari Lee reported that she has created a Special Committee on future public forums. She, Tonya Amedon and Jaanai Priest were appointed, and will work to find other volunteers who are interested in assisting.

Mari Lee said that the Naturalization Ceremony on September 17 was a great event. 28 people from 17 countries were naturalized. Roger Sobkowiak was warmly thanked for the excellent photographs that he took at this event.

Mari Lee said that on the resolution concerning adding sexual orientation and gender identity protections that the HRC sent to the County Council, she, Gene Stanton, Chris Fair from the Frederick Center, and Miles Ward will be meeting with County Executive Jan Gardner to discuss.

IX. Miles Ward presented several articles about recent police violence protests, and the freedom of speech. Members were encouraged to read the materials when they have time.

X. Roger Sobkowiak asked if any consideration has been given to how a community crisis would be handled; particularly, what the HRC's role might be in such an event. He suggested that the County consider staging a rehearsal that includes many community partners, and asked if this was something that the HRC should initiate.

It was mentioned that the local NAACP chapter intends to hold a meeting on Saturday at 2 pm at the Bernard Brown Center.

HRC members were again encouraged to contact the Asian American Center and register to volunteer at its upcoming Community Health Fair on October 22. Members were reminded that the HRC is moving away from having a table at so many events, and concentrating instead on connecting with the community in other ways and promoting itself by participating in work activities.

Mari Lee said that she intends for the first HRC quarterly newsletter to be sent out before the end of the year.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned.